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DEPARTMENT *of* ELECTIONS

2025 Changes to Virginia’s Election Laws

The following legislation was passed during the 2025 Session of the General Assembly, signed by the Governor, and will go into effect on July 1, 2025 (unless otherwise noted). This legislation is likely to affect the operations of general registrars, electoral board members, constituents, candidates, the Department of Elections (ELECT), and all who are part of the elections community.

The summaries were prepared by the Policy Division of ELECT. These are only summaries that provide highlights of the legislation and are not intended to be a full accounting of the changes from every bill. Complete information on these bills is available on the [Legislative Information System](http://lis.virginia.gov) (<http://lis.virginia.gov>).

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Candidates & Campaign Finance

[HB 2165 and SB 1002 Campaign finance; prohibited personal use of campaign funds, etc.](#)

Effective date: July 1, 2026

These identical bills prohibit any person from converting contributions to a candidate or their campaign committee for personal use. Previously, Virginia law only prohibited such conversion of contributions with regard to the disbursement of surplus funds at the dissolution of a campaign or political committee. These bills provide that any person subject to the personal use ban may request an advisory opinion from the State Board of Elections (SBE). These bills also create a complaint and hearing process with ELECT and the SBE for candidates or campaign committees that have allegedly violated the personal use ban. To implement the provisions of these bills, the SBE is directed to adopt emergency regulations similar to those promulgated by the Federal Election Commission and to publish an updated summary of Virginia's campaign finance laws on ELECT's website. These bills add §§ 24.2-948.6 through 24.2-948.9, and amend §§ 2.2-3711, 24.2-946, and 24.2-948.4 of the Code of Virginia.

[SB 945 Campaign finance; appeal of penalties.](#)

Effective date: July 1, 2025

This bill provides for an appeal process for any person or committee assessed a civil penalty under the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act of 2006. Upon petition, the SBE may provide relief to the petitioner for good cause shown. Such relief may include forgiveness of all or a portion of an assessed civil penalty, the retroactive extension of a deadline, or other appropriate remedy. The bill requires the SBE to publish a written opinion for each appeal that it hears, which shall include the facts put before the SBE, the SBE's decision, and the SBE's rationale for reaching such decision. This bill adds § 24.2-953.6 to the Code of Virginia.

Election Administration

[SB 1044 Elections; general registrar of each locality to report number of provisional ballots cast.](#)

Effective date: July 1, 2025

This bill requires precinct-level reporting of provisional ballot information, including results. General registrars are required to report to ELECT for each precinct the total number of provisional ballots cast, the number of those provisional ballots determined to be valid by the electoral board, and the results of such valid provisional ballots assigned to such precinct. Similar to precinct-level absentee reporting, this bill requires early, in-person provisional voting to be reported separately from provisional voting on Election Day. ELECT is required to establish standards for ascertaining and reporting such information, and the standards must direct all results be posted promptly and no later than 5:00 p.m. on the tenth day after the election. Previously, the standards for precinct-level absentee reporting was delegated to



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the SBE, but under this bill standards for both precinct-level reporting for absentee and provisional ballots are delegated to ELECT. This bill amends § 24.2-667.1 of the Code of Virginia.

[SB 1174 Elections; prohibited activities, distribution of referendum materials.](#)

Effective date: July 1, 2025

This bill adds “referendum” to the description of materials that are prohibited from being distributed within certain areas while voting and registration activities are being conducted. This bill does not impact the administrative duties of local electoral boards, general registrars, or officers of election when a referendum is placed on the ballot. This bill amends §§ 24.2-310, 24.2-604, 24.2-701.2, and 24.2-1003 of the Code of Virginia.

[HB 1735 and SB 991 Voter registration; time period for closing registration records before certain elections.](#)

Effective date: July 1, 2025

These identical bills reduce the number of days during which voter registration records are closed to 10 days before all elections except special elections that are called by the Governor, Speaker of the House of Delegates, or President pro tempore of the Senate which remain at 6 days. Previously, the voter registration records were closed 21 days before a general or primary election and 13 days before special elections that were not called by the entities mentioned above. These bills amend § 24.2-416 of the Code of Virginia.

Miscellaneous

[HB 2628 and SB 997 Local officers; oath of office.](#)

Effective date: July 1, 2025

These identical bills require all elected county, city, town and district officers to have their oath administered by the clerk of court, regardless of any charter or other provisions of law. Previously, local elected officials were allowed to have their oaths administered by someone other than the clerk of court if another provision of law prescribed it. These bills amend § 15.2-1522 of the Code of Virginia.

[HJ 443 and SJ 253 General elections; joint subcommittee to study consolidation and scheduling.](#)

Effective date: July 1, 2025

These resolutions establish a joint subcommittee to study the consolidation and scheduling of general elections in Virginia. The 13-member joint subcommittee will meet over the course of two years and will consist of eight members of the General Assembly, four nonlegislative citizen members, and one ex officio member. Specifically, the members will include representation from:

- The Virginia Senate, including the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections



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- The Virginia House of Delegates, including the House Committee on Privileges and Elections
- A local board of supervisors (may be a current or former member)
- A local electoral board (may be a current or former member)
- A local town or city council (may be a current or former member)
- A general registrar (may be a current or former registrar)

The Commissioner of Elections, or their designee, shall serve ex officio with nonvoting privileges. In conducting the study, the joint subcommittee is required to weigh the effects of moving some or all of Virginia's state or local elections to even-numbered years in order to coincide with the federal election cycle, including impacts on voter turnout, effects on campaign costs and fundraising, the interplay between state and federal elections and campaign finance laws and regulations, and estimated cost savings for local governments and, in turn, the taxpayers. Any recommendations by the joint subcommittee to consolidate or reschedule Virginia's general elections must include recommendations for any amendments to the Constitution of Virginia and the Code of Virginia needed to effectuate the shift. The subcommittee's final report is due no later than the first day of the 2027 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

[HJ 500 Election Worker Appreciation Day.](#)

Effective date: July 1, 2025

This resolution designates the Tuesday after the November General Election, in 2025 and each succeeding year, as Election Worker Appreciation Day in Virginia. While this summary will not include all of the language from the resolution, below are some key highlights:

“WHEREAS, election workers, with their training, dedication, and professionalism, play a vital role in ensuring efficient and secure elections; and

WHEREAS, elections are the foundation of our democracy, and election officials work tirelessly to protect this critical infrastructure while maintaining public confidence in the outcome of our electoral processes; and

WHEREAS, election workers provide an invaluable function to our Commonwealth and are one of the Commonwealth's most valuable resources; and

WHEREAS, election workers are truly the unsung heroes of our democracy; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly designate the Tuesday after the November General Election, in 2025 and in each succeeding year, as Election Worker Appreciation Day in Virginia.”



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Budget Bill

[HB 1600 \(Chapter 725\) Budget Bill](#)

Effective date: May 2, 2025 and July 1, 2025 (for the 2026 fiscal year amendments)

The Commonwealth of Virginia operates under a two-year (biennial) budget cycle. Each year the Governor prepares the proposed budget bill for introduction by the General Assembly. The bill is initially adopted in even-numbered years and amended in odd-numbered years. HB 1600 is the amended budget for the 2025 and 2026 fiscal years, and the changes for the 2025 fiscal year became effective upon the Governor's signature. In general, the budget bill makes a significant impact on laws throughout the Commonwealth and allocates funds for the administration of various processes. While this summary will not address all of the changes in the respective budget bill, there are two ELECT applicable amendments to mention:

1. \$500,000 is provided for the migration of information and systems to the Cloud.
2. \$250,000 is provided to develop a plan for the replacement of the Committee Electronic Tracking (COMET) and Campaign Finance Management (CFM) systems. ELECT is required to provide a report on the plan for the replacement of these systems to the Governor and the Chairs of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance and Appropriations Committees by October 1, 2025.